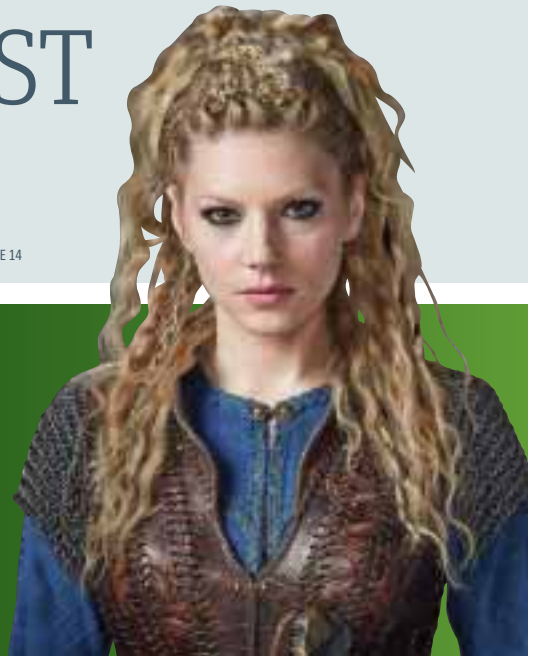


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"VIKINGS" IS BACK, AND WE TALKED TO KATHERYN WINNICK. PAGE 14



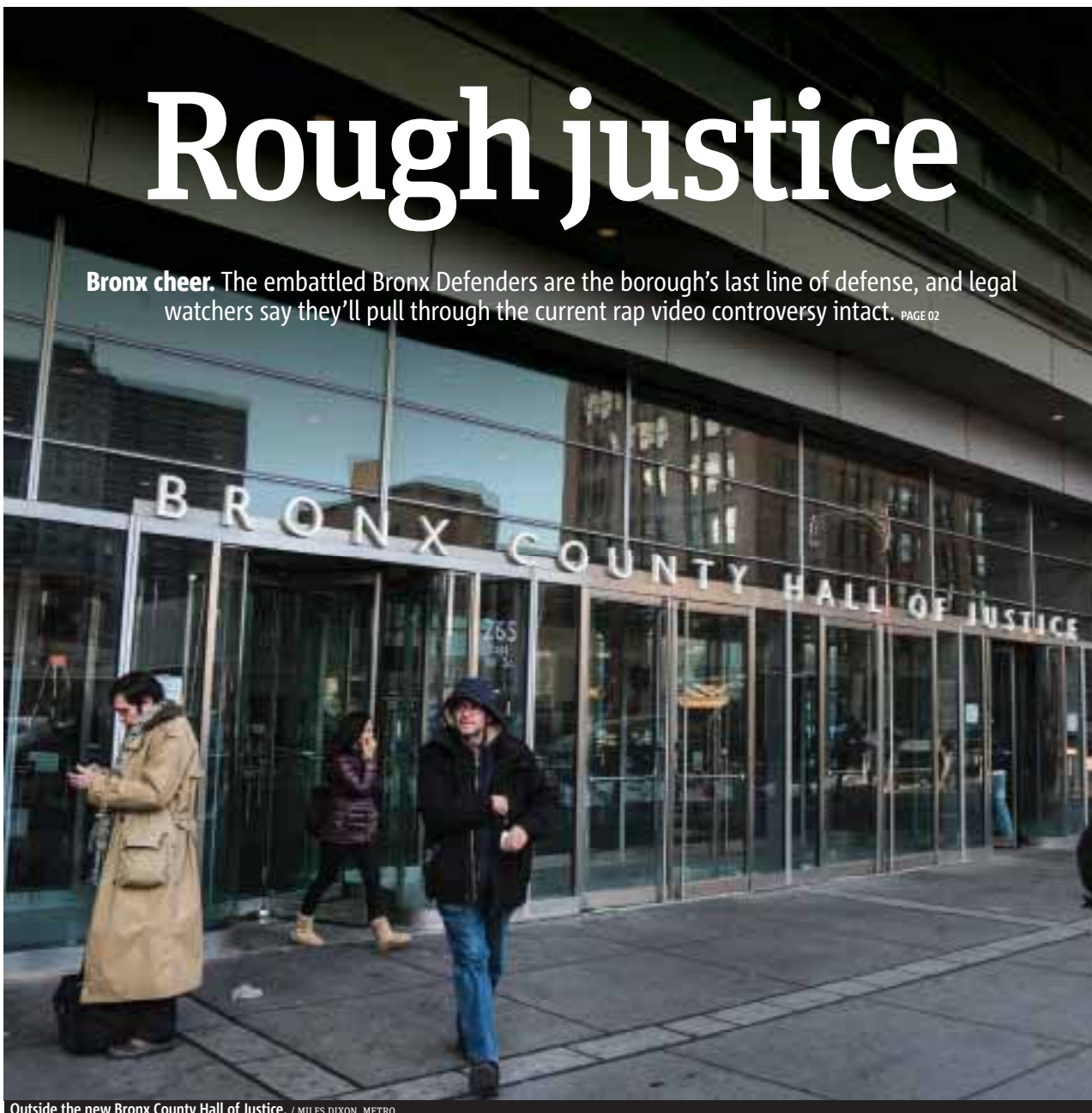
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## Rough justice

**Bronx cheer.** The embattled Bronx Defenders are the borough's last line of defense, and legal watchers say they'll pull through the current rap video controversy intact. PAGE 02



Outside the new Bronx County Hall of Justice. / MILES DIXON, METRO

**Chess play leads girls into math and science**

PAGE 04

**Red-hot designers to watch from NYFW**

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**Put back what winter takes from your skin**

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**Blockbuster NHL trades may be on horizon**

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# 1 NEWS

Top 3

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# Bronx Defenders down two lawyers but not out

**Legal aides.** The embattled legal group is likely to survive the current storm over an anti-cop video.



The Defenders Bronx office, inset, and the Bronx County Courthouse. / MILES DIXON

In the halls of justice in the Bronx, the poorest county in New York State, the Bronx Defenders take on more than 30,000 cases a year. The legal nonprofit is regarded as a national leader for its work both in and out of the courtroom, but it took a single camera allowed into its offices to endanger the group's future.

A YouTube music video uploaded in early December shook up the Bronx Defenders and led to a city investigation that forced two of its staff attorneys — Ryan Napoli and Kumar Rao — to resign and its founder and executive director Robin Steinberg to be suspended for her staff's involvement in the anti-police video.

Now, critics of the organization, including Patrolmen's Benevolent Association President Pat Lynch, have seized on the video and the investigation and called for the Defenders to lose their \$20-million-a-year contract with the city.

"In our view they should have been fired immediately, disbarred from practicing law and the city's funding for the Bronx Defenders with-

### Quoted

**"We've got to have public defenders. It's an arrestee's right."**

Bronx District Attorney's office

drawn," Lynch said after the two Defenders attorneys involved in the video resigned.

The Bronx Defenders has more than 200 staff members, of whom more than 100 are attorneys.

Neither Bronx Defenders nor Mayor Bill de Blasio's office responded to questions about whether funding for the group remains at risk, despite calls from Lynch to defund the group entirely.

"It'll blow over," says former NAACP Legal Defense Fund lawyer Michael Sussman.

"We've got to have public defenders," said a spokeswoman for the Bronx District Attorney. "It's an arrestee's right."

The district attorney's office declined to take further questions.

Sussman said innovative organizations like the Bronx Defenders are vital in a criminal justice system in which the quality of representation in court depends on the size of an defendant's pocketbooks.

"The only way to resolve that is to have these highly professional offices committed institutionally to the defense of people

accused of crimes," he said, adding public defenders need more money — not less.

Steve Zeidman, the director of CUNY's Criminal Defense Clinic and a former supervisor at the Legal Aid Society, said there's a growing need for public defenders as the poor and people of color continue to be arrested.

"Vigorous public defenders are needed to raise and argue those very issues so they are not swept under the rug," he said.

Bronx Defenders is a model organization around the country due to its approach to criminal justice, explained Lauren-Brooke Eisen, an attorney with the Brennan Center

for Justice.

"It's so unique because they're not just looking at that one alleged crime or conviction," Eisen said. "They look at the myriad of collateral consequences when you have a record."

Observers agree the Defenders are unlikely to lose all their funding, but they worry that attacking the Defenders can become an attack on fairness in the courts.

"Judges in the system know these attorneys provide huge services," said Sussman, "and that the system could not function without them."



CHESTER SORIA  
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## Armed. Bronx gunman on the loose following late-night attack

Cops are on the lookout for a gunman who shot a man in his stomach on Monday morning.

Police arrived at the apartment on Nelson Avenue in the Bronx's Highbridge section at around 2:45 a.m. and found a 21-year-old man bleeding on the floor.

Authorities said he

was shot once in his stomach. Paramedics rushed the man to Lincoln Hospital, where he was treated. Police said he is expected to survive.

The suspect was caught on surveillance video and was described as a black man between 20 and 25 years old.

METRO



The suspect / PROVIDED

### Slashing

## Teen attacks own mother

A teen slashed his mom's face before he locked himself in the their high-rise apartment and lit the family couch on fire, the NYPD said on Tuesday.

Authorities said nine police officers, three civilians and two firefighters were treated for minor injuries and

smoke inhalation.

Police responded to an emergency call of a family assault at the city-owned Butler Houses at around 2:30 p.m. Tuesday where they were met with a 42-year-old woman bleeding from her face.

Cops said the woman called the authorities when her 18-year-old son went on a rampage.

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# Queens take to the chess board

## Tournament.

Success Academy wants more girls playing the game of strategy.

The large room, bathed in sunlight, was quiet except for the scribble of pencils, the click of the time clock and bump of the chess pieces hitting the board.

On Tuesday afternoon, Success Academy held its first-ever all-girls chess tournament at its Harlem West middle school on 114th Street. The group of 32 charter schools in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx, has had a robust program that teaches each student to play chess, said chess educator Sean O'Hanlon.

Almost 100 girls attended the event.

But Success Academy wants to go a step further, and bridge the gap of women playing chess, an



Success Academy Charter School in Harlem hosted an all-girls chess tournament. / BESS ADLER, METRO

## Quoted

**"It's been working for [my daughter]. It's definitely helping with her focus."**

DeAllie

activity many educators and experts believe help with analytical skills, particularly in STEM subjects.

Outside the tournament room, Alicia DeAllie watched her 8-year-old daughter, Kai, play with an opponent, write down her moves and shake hands at the end. DeAllie said her daughter transferred from public school to the Williamsburg charter school this school

year.

"It's been working for her," DeAllie said of chess. "It's definitely helping with her focus."

Success Academy students compete regularly in tournaments against each other and players throughout New York City, and O'Hanlon said this is the first of many all-girl events to come, aimed at bridging the gap of less women playing chess. O'Hanlon

said in the United States Chess Federation, girls make up just 20 percent of club members under the age of 12.

"I think the disadvantage they have is the biases of the teacher," O'Hanlon said. "We want to make sure that they have equal opportunity."



WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE  
Wendy.Biddlecombe@metro.us

## Chess

## Seeing patterns

Hilary Levey Friedman, a social scientist, professor at Brown University and author of "Playing to Win: Raising Children in a Competitive Culture," said studies have done that find top chess players can look at a chess board and identify patterns within seconds.

Chess, apart from helping student develop logical reasoning skills, calculating moves and thinking ahead, can help connect "girls to other girls interested in similar things."

Fernand Brunschwig, an adjunct professor of engineering at Teachers College Columbia University, said chess places a "strong emphasis on skills in planning ahead."

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## Politics. Judge tells Cuomo to set SI vote

A federal judge ordered Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday to set a date for a special election to replace disgraced former Rep. Michael Grimm.

The Staten Island Republican resigned Jan. 5 after pleading guilty to tax evasion.

Unless Cuomo sets a date before a Feb. 20 hearing at the Brooklyn courthouse, or can give a better reason for a delay, U.S. District Court Judge Jack Weinstein said the court will set the election.

"As reflected in the state's papers filed last week, the governor will announce the date for the special election for New York's 11th Congressional District shortly," a Cuomo spokeswoman said Tuesday.

"The right to representation in government is the central pillar of democracy in this country," Weinstein wrote in his 42-page opinion. "Unjustified delay in filling



Grimm / FILE PHOTO

a vacancy cannot be countenanced."

Weinstein added that the court decided on the date instead of the governor "would cause this court great regret."

"I understand on the one hand you want to get an election done as soon as possible," Cuomo told reporters last week. "On the other hand, they're expensive to conduct."

The election could cost \$1 million.

CHESTER JESUS SORIA

### Comptroller

## Stringer passed buck on Gurley settlement

The New York City's Comptroller's office punted the lawsuit filed by family of police shooting victim Akai Gurley.

Crain's New York first reported early Tuesday that Comptroller Scott Stringer passed on the Gurley family's \$50 million claim to city attorneys.

While previous comptrollers typically deferred negotiations for claims to the city's Law Department, Stringer has proactively played a role in settling high-profile lawsuits.

His office approved settlements with the five men wrongfully convicted in the Central Park jogger case for \$41 million, and \$2.25 million for the family of a veteran who "baked to death" in a Rikers jail cell. **METRO**

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Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) occurs when the cells of the prostate gland begin to multiply. This lecture will discuss the causes, symptoms, and diagnosis of this condition.

**Date:** Thursday, February 26, 5:30pm – 6:30pm.

**Presenter:** Christopher Kelly, MD.

**Location:** Perlmutter Cancer Center.  
160 East 34th Street. 11th Floor, Room 1121.

### COLORECTAL CANCER PREVENTION AND SCREENING.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States, but it doesn't have to be. With screening and early detection, this is one cancer that is highly curable and often preventable. This lecture will discuss who is at risk for colon cancer, who should be screened and when, as well as what screening options are available.

**Date:** Monday, March 2, 5:30pm – 7:00pm.

**Moderator:** Mark B. Pochapin, MD.

**Location:** NYU Langone Medical Center.  
550 First Avenue at 31st Street. Farkas Auditorium.

These lectures are free and open to the public, but you must RSVP. To attend, call **212.263.2266** or visit [nyulmc.org/cancer-rsvp](http://nyulmc.org/cancer-rsvp). View past lectures at [youtube.com/nyulmc](http://youtube.com/nyulmc)

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## Traffic

## Toll plan for East River bridges

The transit group MoveNY is proposing the MTA start charging tolls on the city's free East River crossings as a way to raise cash for the \$15 billion gap in capital funding, and cut congestion.

The group, headed by former DOT Deputy Commissioner Sam



Brooklyn Bridge  
GETTY IMAGES

Schwartz, would charge \$8 tolls — \$5.54 with an E-ZPass — each way across the Brooklyn, Manhattan, Williamsburg and Queensboro bridges, as well as for crossing 60th Street in Manhattan, according to the plan released on Tuesday.

Supporters say the tolls could curb traffic congestion and raise up to \$1.5 billion a year

in cash, the Daily News reported.

The plan would also cut toll prices by \$2.50 on the Verrazano, Triborough, Whitestone and Throgs Neck bridges, and by \$1 on the Henry Hudson, Cross Bay and Marine Parkway bridges.

MTA commuter rail and bus fares are set to rise next month.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE



The mayor's plans for more ferries is making waves. / GETTY IMAGES

## Borough ferry plan could sink, say critics

**Transportation.** History holds that NYC commuters are not keen on water rides.

Mayor Edward Koch in the 1980s. "A lot of young people are willing to walk, to bike and then to take a ferry."

De Blasio would spend \$55 million on terminals and as much as \$20 million a year on subsidies. Fares would be \$2.75, the same as for a bus or subway.

De Blasio sees ferries as a weapon in his fight against income inequality, linking residents of distant lower-class housing projects to jobs.

"Transportation is central to the mission of providing affordable housing and services — connecting neighborhoods in the five boroughs to New York's largest job centers," he said earlier this month. **BLOOMBERG**

Mayor Bill de Blasio's plans for five-borough ferry service by 2017 are being greeted with what appears to be grateful skepticism by transit experts.

"While a lot of previous attempts have failed, we have a population on the waterfront that's dramatically changed and is continuing to change," said Sam Schwartz, a transportation consultant and former traffic commissioner under

## Quoted

"Transportation is central to the mission of providing affordable housing and services — connecting neighborhoods in the five boroughs to New York's largest job centers."

De Blasio

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# Judge in Texas suspends immigration orders in US



Supporters of Obama's immigration actions urged the Justice Department to seek an emergency stay to block the judge's order. / GETTY IMAGES

**Illegal immigration.** Most in the U.S. come from Mexico and other Latin-American countries.

A judge in Texas has temporarily blocked President Barack Obama's orders to shield millions of people who are in the United States illegally from deportation, backing 26 states that argued Obama had overstepped his legal authority.

The White House said on Tuesday the Justice Department would appeal Monday's action by U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen in Brownsville, a city along the Texas border with Mexico.

Hanen has previously issued opinions critical of the Obama administration's enforcement of immigration laws. An appeal of his preliminary injunction would go to the majority conservative 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said the administration will comply with the injunction and delay accepting applications for deportation relief that

had been set to begin today.

The judge issued his opinion amid a fight in the Republican-led U.S. Congress over legislation passed by the House of Representatives to allow funding for the Department of Homeland Security only if Obama's immigration actions were nullified. The department is charged with securing borders, airports and coastal waters.

Neither Republicans nor Democrats showed signs of backing down, especially with the court order being a preliminary one and a ruling on the merits of the states' lawsuit still ahead.

The judge hemmed in Obama's exertion of executive power on Nov. 20 that has drawn the ire of Republican elected officials who say he exceeded his constitutional authority. **REUTERS**

## Quoted

**"Judge Hanen's decision rightly stops the president's overreach in its tracks."**

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, whose state spearheaded the lawsuit

Chris Kyle

## Prosecution rests in 'American Sniper' murder trial in Texas

Prosecutors finished calling witnesses on Tuesday in the murder trial of Eddie Ray Routh, who is charged with fatally shooting Chris Kyle, the former Navy SEAL whose autobiography was turned into the hit movie

"American Sniper."

Over several days of witnesses' testimony, prosecutors reconstructed the day two years ago when they say Routh, 27, killed Kyle and Kyle's friend Chad Littlefield at a gun range about 70 miles southwest

of Fort Worth, stole Kyle's pickup truck and was taken into custody following a high-speed car chase.

Routh's lawyers have not contested accusations that Routh fired the fatal shots. They have contended he was psychotic and did not realize what he was doing.

They are trying

to have him declared innocent by reason of insanity and said in opening arguments they would call expert witnesses who will attest to Routh's troubled mental state.

Prosecutors are seeking life in prison without the possibility of parole in the trial held in the rural town of Stephenville before a jury of 10 women and two men. **REUTERS**

EDDIE RAY ROUTH / GETTY IMAGES

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## Prosecutor asks for Strauss-Kahn acquittal in French sex trial

A French prosecutor asked a criminal court on Tuesday to acquit former IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn of a pimping charge for his role in what investigating magistrates argued was an organized sex ring using prostitutes.

Strauss-Kahn was tipped to become French president before being accused of sexual assault by a New York hotel chambermaid in 2011. U.S. criminal charges were subsequently dropped, and the allegations that he participated in a French sex ring centered in the northern French city of

Lille emerged later.

"Did Dominique Strauss-Kahn pay prostitutes? The answer is no. Did he pimp prostitutes for others? The answer is no," Lille Prosecutor Frederic Fevre told the court before requesting Strauss-Kahn's acquittal.

The prosecution's demand highlighted the difficulty of a potential conviction of Strauss-Kahn, 65. The trial is due to finish this week, with closing statements from the defense on Wednesday, but a verdict is not expected immediately.

REUTERS

STRAUSS-KAHN /GETTY IMAGES



## Afghan, Pakistan Taliban kill 28 in attacks on provincial police HQs

Four suicide attackers stormed a provincial police headquarters in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing 22 police in an attack claimed by the Taliban.

The attack in Logar province outside the capital, Kabul, was the latest to target Afghan security forces following the withdrawal of most foreign combat troops.

In neighboring Pakistan, a Taliban suicide attack on a police headquarters killed at least six other people in the city of Lahore, in what militants called a revenge strike for the hangings of their comrades. REUTERS

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# need to know



## Carnival float accident kills at least 16 in Haiti

At least 16 people were killed and 78 injured early on Tuesday when a carnival float hit a power line in Port-au-Prince, setting off a stampede by bystanders, officials said.

Amateur video of the incident showed the electric cable catching singer Fantom on the float as it passed near the presidential stand packed with spectators. Most of the victims were trampled to death in the stampede after the float struck a power cable.

REUTERS

## Bomb threat at Islamic center in Texas capital

A man in his 50s was arrested for making threats on Tuesday to bomb an Islamic center in Austin and a restaurant specializing in Middle Eastern food, Austin police said.

No bombs were discovered at the locations in different parts of the city and police are considering whether to bring terrorism charges against the man, who was not immediately identified.

REUTERS

### Quoted

**"Our bomb squad responded and cleared both sites."**

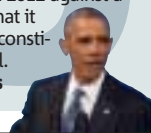
A spokeswoman for the Austin police, adding the man may be mentally disturbed

## Some states rule out rescue for Obamacare

Five Republican state governors say they will not rescue a crucial part of Obamacare if it is struck down by the Supreme Court, underlining the prospect for a chaotic aftermath to a ruling that could force millions of Americans to pay much more for coverage or lose their insurance.

The Supreme Court is due to hear opening arguments in the case known as King v. Burwell on March 4, marking the second major challenge to President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act after the justices ruled in 2012 against a claim that it was unconstitutional.

REUTERS



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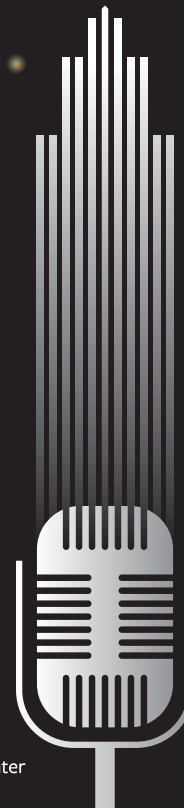
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Model is not an actual patient.

## Africa. US to allow phone, PC exports to Sudan to boost access

The United States on Tuesday eased restrictions on the export of some personal telecommunications devices to Sudan such as smartphones and computers, to help give ordinary Sudanese greater access to social networking and the Internet.

"These changes are consistent with our commitment to promote freedom of expression through access to communications tools," U.S. special envoy to Sudan and South Sudan Donald Booth told reporters.

The revised rules will be effective Feb. 18, Booth said.

The United States has expressed concern about continuing human rights violations by the Khartoum government, violence in the western Darfur region and a crackdown on the media before April elections.

Sudan is struggling with a raft of U.N. and



The licensing changes announced by the U.S. Treasury will cover personal devices such as computers, mobile phones, radios and digital cameras, and related software and services, U.S. officials said. / GETTY IMAGES

### Quoted

"These changes also support our aim to help Sudanese citizens integrate in the global digital community."

Booth

bilateral sanctions, including from the United States. Its ruling National Congress party

last year chose President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, wanted on charges of genocide by the International Criminal Court, as its candidate for the presidential vote.

Booth said the United States had "great concern" with reports that Sudanese national security agencies seized the print runs of 12 to 14 newspapers on Monday.

REUTERS

## Feet Hurt? Bunions? Hammertoes? Heel Pain?

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## Kardashians want Amber Rose to quit keeping up with them

What started out as some pretty decent shade-throwing by Amber Rose over rapper pal Tyga taking up with 17-year-old Kylie Jenner has broken out into an all-out Twitter war. And who doesn't love a good Twitter war? Rose first angered the Kardashian clan by telling Power 105 that Jenner is "a baby; she needs to go to bed at 7 o'clock and relax." Which doesn't seem like such terrible advice, but resident tallest Kardashian Khloe apparently took some offense, mounting a tweet-based offensive on Rose. "Please don't worry about my sister who has a career and her s— together at only 17. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. Please stop talking about us in interviews, mama. None of us talk about you." There



GETTY IMAGES

were also some frog and coffee cup emojis thrown in, for some reason. This is huge, though, as it quite

possibly marks the first time a Kardashian has ever asked someone not to pay attention to them.

## Jessica Williams denies she's Jon Stewart's successor

In the immediate aftermath of Jon Stewart announcing his departure from "The Daily Show," a lot of people across the Internet voiced their support for current "Daily Show" correspondent Jessica Williams to take over. Well, Williams heard you but will have to politely decline. "I'm not hosting. Thank you, but I am extremely underqualified for the job!" she tweeted. "I am super not right for it, but there are quite a few people who are! Can't wait to stick around and see what happens."



GETTY IMAGES

## THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRLBAR  
@Nedrick  
ned.ehrbar@metro.us



## Spanish artist gives A-listers plus-size makeovers



DAVID LOPERA/NEWS DOG MEDIA

This should make the debate about body image issues a little more interesting. While famous women suffer punishing workouts to tone up and slim down, a 20-year-old Spanish artist is taking to Photoshop to plump them up. Like, by a lot. David Lopera has been doing custom images for clients making celebrities like Kim Kardashian, Katy Perry and Mila Kunis significantly rounder. And, he tells the Daily Mail, business is booming. "Men are always writing to me asking if I can make their [celebrity] crushes look a bit fatter," he says. "These women look much better when they're overweight. ... Look at my pictures and you will see that big is beautiful."

## Bieber Roast promos start with a good old-fashioned egging

Things are off to a messy start in the promotional run-up to Justin Bieber's much-hyped roasting by Kevin Hart and other comedy pros at the behest of Comedy Central next month. In the first video clip for the event, the Tiny Canadian Terror is pelted in slow motion with eggs, hearkening back to his previous arrest for doing the same to his neighbor's house last year. As the video teases, "Watch Justin Bieber learn how



COMEDY CENTRAL

poor, defenseless houses feel." Also, can we do something about Bieber's apparent allergy to shirts?

I know he put a lot of time into all those tattoos and wants to show them off, but still.

### Daily video

## Michelle Obama and Big Bird do 'Billy on the Street'

Manic, pedestrian-accosting Billy Eichner scored his biggest get yet for "Billy on the Street" with First Lady Michelle Obama and "Sesame Street" icon Big Bird for a quiz game entitled "Ariana Grande or Eating a Carrot?" And Mrs. Obama handles his energy with aplomb. If you want to have some



FUNNYORDIE.COM

fun, take a shot every time she flinches.

2

CULTURE



### Twitter feed

Today, Tyra Banks is negotiating her workout, Justin Bieber cannot stop going on "Ellen," Billy Eichner is schooling the masses, Joel McHale just had his mind blown at Whole Foods and Jaden Smith has a perfectly valid question.

@tyrabanks: I'm gonna dip my finger deep into that cookie butter then get my ass on my treadmill. Or maybe I'll dip and run at same time

@justinbieber: @TheEllenShow see u this week :)

@billyeichner: Guys, it's not an accident that Leeza Gibbons became a STAR.

@joelmchale: Holy crap quinoa has had a remarkable last two years.

@officialjaden: Yeah Yeah, But How Many Pull Ups Can You Do.

# A shieldmaiden takes charge

## Interview.

Katheryn Winnick says her Viking warrior will face some challenges as a woman in power on "Vikings."

The world of "Vikings" is one filled with violence, unpredictability and the constant threat of danger. It's also one in which Lagertha (Katheryn Winnick) manages to thrive, despite the rarity of a woman being in a position of power. Last season saw her go from main character Ragnar's wife to an abusive new marriage to a position of authority as earl of her own territory. This season will surely see her face plenty of new challenges, so we asked Katheryn Winnick about what's ahead for her.

### Where do we find Lagertha in Season 3?

She has a lot more conflicts and struggles, now being a woman in power, but she's also a free woman, and she doesn't have a husband or an ex-husband to worry about, or an abusive husband. She got rid of him, stabbed him in the eye, one of my favorite scenes. So you will see her in a different light, which was a lot of fun for me to play.

### Do the men she rules over in her territory accept her as their leader?

That's yet to be discov-



"Vikings" returns tomorrow at 10 p.m. on History. / JONATHAN HESSON, HISTORY

ered, to be seen. I feel like she feels like she has the right to be an earl. I think her intention is doing the right thing for her territory, and she's such a moral character that I know that she will be a strong leader. How others take her authority is the question. It's probably very similar to women who are CEOs of companies today, and how to deal with a woman who is your boss. So that is something that will get explored a little bit.



LISA WEIDENFELD  
@LisaWeidenfeld  
lisa.weidenfeld@metro.us

## Spoiler alert!

### Will there always be a hint of a romance between her and Ragnar, despite his marriage to Aslaug?

I know the fans really want to see us get back together for sure. Are you trying to get spoilers out of me?

### Always.

We are Vikings. Ragnar is a very good looking man and always will be, and Princess Aslaug — I think Lagertha has a lot of respect for her and what she's endured through

her many children that she had to raise and is still raising and the struggles that she faces as the second wife to Ragnar. I think Lagertha really empathizes with her. Are you asking me if we're all going to end up in bed? I'm not going to answer that.

**I guess you can't give that away quite yet.**  
I will tell you this. Lagertha definitely has some fun this season.

**Does that have**

### anything to do with Ben Robson, who joins the cast as Kalf?

Hey, they cast a good looking guy. Lagertha is a woman. I don't know, maybe there's something. You will see.

## Twitter life

### Web warrior

**The show has a really active online fan base. What's that like for you?**

It's a little surreal, to be honest with you. It's overwhelming, especially the tattoos that people get of Lagertha's face. It's crazy. I get them at least once a week, someone tagging me on their latest tattoo of Lagertha, and I'm thinking, wow, this is dedication, this is amazing! And on the other hand, I'm thinking, I hope we don't get canceled! You're stuck with me for life! But I love it.

### Do you hear from more men or women?

Both. It's funny. I want to say it's pretty split. I would think it would be more women, but there are a lot of men. Some of the social media is like, marry me! Or I want to find a woman like Lagertha, or I want my daughter to be like you or like Lagertha's character. A lot of men have really responded to a strong woman, which I feel is so amazing, and a lot of girls and women feel that they can relate to her as well, and that brings me so much pride and joy.

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# David Cross plays the 'Hits'

**Interview.** The actor didn't want his directorial debut, "Hits," to just be seen on the small screen.

David Cross wants you to see his directorial debut, "Hits," so he's given you multiple ways to see it. It's on VOD, just like many other independently financed films. But it's also available in a pay-what-you-want deal on BitTorrent, and, in some places, actually in theaters. The "Arrested Development" and "Mr. Show" star is himself not in the film, which follows a fire-breathing Fox News watcher (Matt Walsh) who

is turned into an Internet celebrity by hipsters.

**The film is pretty savage about Brooklyn hipsters.**

Before I lived [in NYC], I was in L.A., and I spent all my time in Silver Lake. That's kind of the equivalent of Williamsburg. And then when I was in London, I was in Shoreditch, which is also a hipster center. So I can't escape these people.

**The film is outraged by three groups: hipsters, millennials and old red state hotheads.**

Dave is an amalgamation of a bunch of different people. There's a line the weed dealer [Michael Cera] says: "Just Google 'crazy motherf—ers at a town meeting.'" That's a real thing. I just Googled

that and got a f—ing treasure trove of those people in some form of mental incapacity. A lot of what he says is taken directly from various YouTube clips of people ranting.

**Matt Walsh plays a hotheaded red state type, but there's something sad and sympathetic about him.**

I sympathize with him. I just feel he's a little off, and he's easily manipulated, and he's very susceptible. He watches Fox News and listens to Alex Jones on the radio. If you look on his desk there's a lot of libertarian s—. There's a "rape of the taxpayer" sticker, there's even "The Turner Diaries" on another

table. That's where he gets his information from. He's a step away from being a "chem-trails" guy. I grew up in Roswell, Georgia, before I came to liberal, progressive cities. My family is still in Atlanta. I know that guy very well — very, very well. I have sympathy for his situation.



MATT PRIGGE  
@mattprigge  
matt.prigge@metro.us

## Bonus statement

### Kids these days

**You're pretty hard on the young.**

But I'm also very aware of the things that were said about my generation. I grew up when the advent of video games started. That's all people would talk about — how it's ruining culture. ... I'm very aware that every generation belittles the generation after it.



David Cross directs Michael Cera on the set of his directorial debut, "Hits," now on VOD and BitTorrent via [www.hitsfilm.com](http://www.hitsfilm.com). / SABRINA LANTOS, HONORA

## TV watch list



## COMEDY

### 'Black-ish'

Dre has to face a big challenge of parenting a teenager when his daughter brings home her first boyfriend. 9:30 P.M., ABC

## DRAMA

### 'The Mysteries of Laura'

Laura finds herself on the hot seat for once when a new detective begins to investigate her and Jake to see if they've done anything wrong. 8 P.M., NBC

## REALITY

### 'Best New Restaurant'

This week's face-off involves two restaurants trying to prove they have the best burgers. 10 P.M., BRAVO

## TALK SHOWS

### 'Jimmy Kimmel Live'

Professional charming person Neil Patrick Harris is Kimmel's guest tonight. Maybe he prepped some Oscars monologue jokes. 11:35 P.M., ABC  
LISA WEIDENFELD

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PLUS

Bad roommate

"There was never not pubes all over the bathroom."

Rachel, London



# How to survive your roommates

**Living.** Whether you're best friends or Craigslist acquaintances, sharing an apartment isn't always easy.

You know how it's definitely, absolutely, no-questions-asked rude to play music past 10 p.m.? And how everyone knows that cups should be placed upside down in the cabinet? Yes, well, these are arbitrary rules and preferences that you have amassed over the years, not infallible truths.

The first step to understanding your roommate is understanding yourself and recognizing

what are legitimate deal breakers — and what are your own quirks you might have to adjust.

## Communicate face to face

Texts can sound snippy. Emails can sound stuffy. Post-It notes can sound psychotic. If you can't deal with the way he flicks toothpaste all over the bathroom mirror, talk to him — face to face, human to human — about it. You'll be more polite when you have to experience his reaction, and he'll be more receptive when he sees your concern.

Passive-aggressive notes are the anonymous Internet comments of apartments: Normal people don't write them, and normal people don't

respond to them.

## Have a real relationship

Your roommate has seen your slobbery retainer, watched you cry at commercials, heard you have sex, and smelled you that time you didn't shower for three days. You have no choice but to have a disturbing amount of intimacy, so it's worth trying to round out the relationship. Have dinner together once in awhile, invite her out with your friends and get to know her as a person. There's a good chance she'll accidentally see you naked someday — don't make this any weirder than it has to be.

MONICA WEYMOUTH  
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For harmonious living, talk to your roommate about problems face to face. / ISTOCK

## Sleepovers

Anna Goldfarb, founder of dating blog Shmitten Kitten and ace advice columnist for *The Frisky*, shares her top tips for avoiding roommate conflicts over significant others.

- "Have a hookup charter," recommends Goldfarb. "Agree upon times that dates come over, maximum overnight stays and the consequences if

someone breaks it."

- Respect common areas. "Don't do movie marathons on the couch, covered in blankets. This isn't your bunker," she says.
- Sharing is caring: "Always share the food and the booze. It makes everyone forget about inconveniences."

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# Elegance in motion

## Reviews

### Girl having the most fun at the party: Rosie Assoulin

Never mistake Rosie Assoulin's girl for basic. She's not showing up to the party in an LBD but, rather, a glamorous salmon sculptural strapless top with tailored cigarette pants, or a moody floor-length crimson skirt with cascading train and just-threw-it-on white shirt. And if she's really pulling out the stops: a silver jumpsuit featuring Assoulin's signature exaggerated wide legs, or one of the gowns with dramatic mermaid skirt, is all anyone will talk about. **TINA CHADHA**



PROVIDED



### Donna Karan

"The glamour of the New York skyline" informed Donna Karan's fall show — doesn't it always? Yet, Karan brought new life to city-slicker basics, imbuing her hard chic with romance: tuxedo shirts with blouson sleeves, pinstripe pencil skirts spliced with silk chiffon insets and tied with obi belts, and fabulous, swinging topcoats rendered in rich gold brocade or embellished with beading. (The black evening dresses that closed the show were standouts too.)

**RAQUEL LANERI**



### Tommy Hilfiger

Tommy Hilfiger knows how to commit to a theme. For his 30th anniversary show he declared his love for '70s style icon Ali MacGraw and football — on a fun, "Friday Night Lights" set complete with Jumbotron. The results: preppy varsity sweaters, swingy kick-pleat skirts and dresses with athletic stripes in navy, burgundy and mustard. But MVP goes to the outerwear, specifically all the glam winter white faux-fur coats. The shoes resembling footballs, however, were an overkill. **TC**



### Rag & Bone

Forget our current obsession with athletic wear. Designers David Neville and Marcus Wainwright know we just want stay in our pajamas. Models in lacy slip dresses layered over long-sleeve tees and tailored ankle-length pants stormed the runway. Sound too flimsy for the cold temps? Tough outerwear like shiny Missy Elliott-esque puffers, leather quilted bombers and techy parkas (the designers site '90s hip-hop as inspiration) are a city girl's protective armor. **TC**



### Gigi Hadid

"It" girl and model Gigi Hadid made her New York Fashion Week Fall 2015 debut at Tommy Hilfiger on Monday, sporting a red leather poncho. Is she the new Kendall Jenner? **RL**

# on the runway



## Zac Posen

Posen's disparate muses for fall included Grace Kelly and Chaka Khan — and, you know, his collection actually did capture something of Kelly's timeless elegance and Khan's fabulous fierceness. See: a plum jersey day dress with a swingy ballet skirt that would make any gal sashay, the fur chubbies done in rich emerald and saffron, the exquisitely draped jersey dresses that evoked the glamour of both 1930s Hollywood and 1970s disco. The one misstep: the OTT glittery bustier ball gown that closed the show. **RL**

## Alice + Olivia

Stacey Bendet was inspired by — surprise! — the '70s this fall, particularly swinging London and the Rolling Stones. Bendet's label has always been a little boho, a little rock 'n' roll, and she translated the louche excess of the era through her own girlie maximalist lens: brocade mini dresses worn with embellished go-go boots, beaded matador jackets paired with gold pleated skirts, and long tapestry dusters worn with studded hot pants. **RL**



## Thom Browne

Ever the showman, Thom Browne staged a funeral for his Fall 2015 presentation, complete with corpse, operating table, a glamorous grim reaper and the chicest parade of mourners you've ever seen, in haute Victorian lace and deconstructed pinstripe suiting and avant garde layering. As critic Cathy Horyn tweeted after the presentation, "Drop-dead chic!" **RL**



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

## Ones to watch — Brock Collection



We were smitten by husband-and-wife duo Kristopher Brock and Laura Vassar's debut fashion week collection of beautiful, wearable basics. The couple recently had a baby and wanted to create clothes for busy women who don't want to compromise style or their to-do list. Their smart pencil skirts, fluid dresses and tailored coats in dusty abstract florals, pale gold lame or pair-with-everything neutrals are destined to be loved by moms and 20-somethings alike. **TC**

## Milly designer Michelle Smith on her favorite piece in her fall collection

"It's a sculptured neoprene coat. I took a very classic Italian melton wool and I bonded it, so the coat has no lining. When it's worn it makes a circular dramatic silhouette," she says. And about the hot pink. "I was inspired by a postmodern palette so very bold, graphic colors, but I made them relevant for today by breaking them with colors like nude, burgundy and gray." **TC**



# New Year... New Legs!

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# Foods to protect your winter-ravaged skin

## Nutrition.

Eat your way to  
healthier skin.

All the moisturizer in the world can't hold up to what Mother Nature has been doling out lately. Besides treating your skin more gently — you're taking shorter showers, using mild soaps and patting yourself dry instead of rubbing, right? — you could be doing more to keep it looking and feeling healthy.



EVA KISIS  
@thisiskis  
eva.kisis@metro.us



ISTOCK

## The list

- **Dark chocolate:** Is there anything cocoa can't cure? Opt for 70 percent cacao — a German study found that the high concentration of flavanols helps thicken skin and boost hydration.
- **Olive oil:** Whether it's the polyphenols keeping free radicals at bay or monounsaturated fatty acids lubricating skin from the inside out, a 2012 study found that women who ate more than 2 teaspoons a day showed over 30 percent fewer signs of aging.
- **Tomatoes:** Besides the natural SPF-boosting lycopene (cook the fruit to get the most benefit), the selenium in tomatoes is an immune-boosting guard against skin damage and age spots.
- **Sardines:** Give these little fish a try — their omega-3 content is similar to salmon, and those healthy fatty acids are working to keep skin supple by supporting elasticity.
- **Kale:** As if kale needed another line on its résumé. For your skin, it contains the powerful antioxidants lutein and zeaxanthin that eliminate free radicals.
- **Kiwi:** They're packed with nearly twice as much vitamin C, pound for pound, as oranges, which boosts collagen production and reduces dryness.
- **Sunflower seeds:** A teaspoon is enough to get about a third of your daily vitamin E. It also has zinc — both strengthen cell membranes for a smoother complexion.

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## Oral health

### Get a free dental checkup on Friday

Don't want to show off your not-so-pearly whites? Steinway Family Dental Center (32-50 Steinway Street, Astoria) is having its semi-annual Free Dental Day this Friday for new patients who have no insurance and can't afford dental care. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Steinway dentists will be providing preventive services including cleanings, fillings, root canals (if it can be completed that day) and consultations to adults and children. If you've been putting something off, get it looked at — oral health doesn't just mean fresh breath and nice teeth; it's linked to overall health, including heart disease and diabetes if periodontal diseases are left untreated. Appointments must be made by calling 718-728-3314. For more information, visit [www.alldentalneeds.com](http://www.alldentalneeds.com).

## Horoscope

**Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18** Don't take on so much that you don't know where to start. Regroup and reorganize before you make a move.

**Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20** An older relative or friend will need assistance. Honesty will help you avoid becoming the subject of gossip. Positive actions will bring the best results.

**Aries | March 21-April 20** Join a group that will help you to develop your skills, knowledge and social ability. Extracurricular activities will keep you entertained.

**Taurus | April 21-May 21** Don't allow romance to interfere with your performance. You will excel in both aspects of life if you set boundaries.

**Gemini | May 22-June 20** The success you are after will be yours if you can employ your ability to win allies. Your charisma is an asset; don't be shy, use it.

**Cancer | June 21-July 22** Someone will take advantage of your good nature. Refuse to let anyone talk you into doing something that could jeopardize your reputation.

**Leo | July 23-Aug. 22** You'll have trouble making up your mind. Refrain from making a hasty decision. Get the facts first if you want to avoid backtracking.

**Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22** Jealousy will mount at work due to false information being spread. Don't be too trusting. Keep your personal details private.

**Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22** Take time to do things that you enjoy. Get together with a friend or join the youngsters for some playtime. Do whatever takes your mind off uncertainties.

**Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21** Relationships with the people you live with will be tumultuous. Focus on putting in extra hours at work, or pursue an activity.

**Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21** With a few changes, you will achieve your goal. Past experience will be a valuable resource when you are making plans.

**Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20** Don't let the regrets in your life overpower you. Let go of the past and learn from your errors so you can move forward.

EUGENIA LAST

## Letters to the editor

## Metro ignores hockey

This may come as a shock to your sports writers, but there is another active sport other than baseball, football and basketball in the tristate area with two teams in playoff contention. For some reason, hockey coverage is passed over for ranting commentaries by your sports writers. After all, Amar'e Stoudemire's buyout, Bill Belichick's legacy, Phil Jackson's executive moves and interviews with Horace Grant have been used in the sports section as opposed to the Rangers and Islanders. They both happened to play each other on Monday, fighting for playoff positioning.

JASON LUGO, VIA EMAIL

## Bible doesn't like vegans

**Re: 'A healthy, holy diet' (Metro, Feb. 17)** If you're considering whether the Bible endorses veganism, consider Romans 14: "One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables." Consider the first chapter of Leviticus, wherein God instructs Moses in the ritual slaughter and fiery destruction of bulls. There are abundant medical and ethical reasons to forego meat without consulting an inconsistent, inaccurate collection of Bronze Age folk tales.

SCOTT PERRY, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

## Sudoku: Easy and hard

6	2	9						5
				9			4	7
				2	3		6	
7					1	3		4
			3		9			
9		3	8					6
	7		5	4				
1	9			3				
2						7	8	3

8	7		3		5		9	
			7		9	2		
	6						5	
4	5				7	6		
9								7
		6	4				8	9
	8						1	
		3	9		2			
	9		8		4		7	2

**How to play**  
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

## Crossword

## Across

- 1 Zip or area —
- 5 Is or was
- 9 Barbecue spot
- 14 Mr. Trebek
- 15 Dog food brand
- 16 Gaucho's rope
- 17 File folder label
- 18 Rare minerals
- 19 Peace and quiet
- 20 Tease (2 wds.)
- 22 Champagne go-withs
- 24 Appeal earnestly
- 26 Plunging neckline
- 27 Teen occupation
- 30 Extend coverage
- 35 Leif's language
- 36 Recline lazily
- 37 Like a wafer
- 38 Stun
- 39 Defeat soundly
- 42 Aardvark prey
- 43 Falafel bean
- 45 Eye amorously
- 46 Divert
- 48 A place for everything
- 50 Less fresh
- 51 Belly dance instrument
- 52 Yard tools
- 54 Helped out
- 58 "Canoe" trees
- 62 Strait-laced one
- 63 Nefertiti's god

## Down

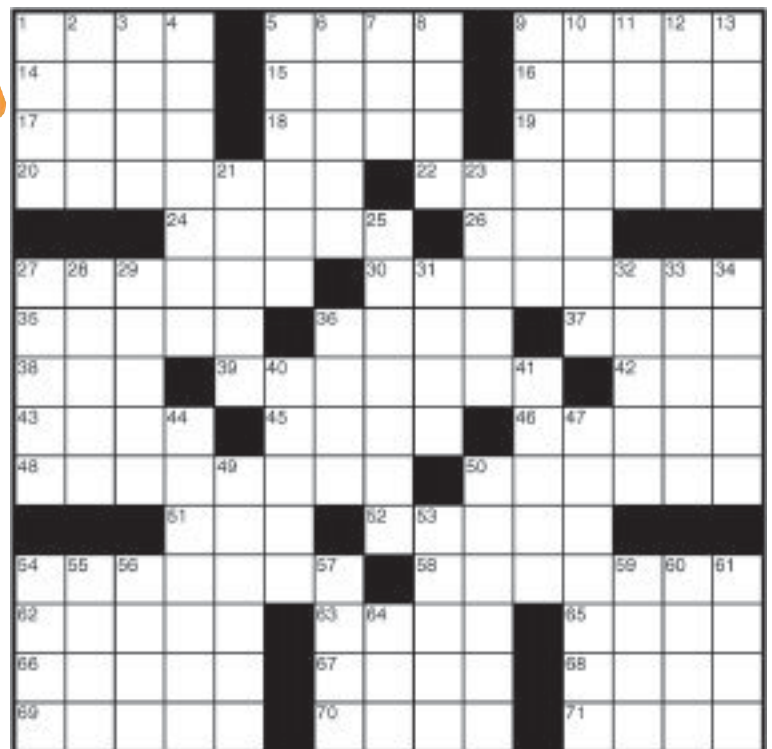
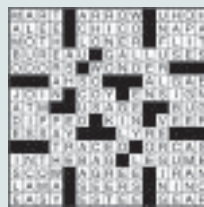
- 65 Mystique
- 66 Keepsake
- 67 Woman, but not she
- 68 Very, informally
- 69 Garbo or Bergman
- 70 Legal rep
- 71 D.A. backup
- 1 Rough it
- 2 Potpourri
- 3 Cubicle filler
- 4 Leaves out
- 5 Fuzzier
- 6 Helen, in Spain
- 7 LP speed
- 8 Autumn pear
- 9 Verified
- 10 Most blithe
- 11 "Voila!" (hyph.)
- 12 Route for Ben-Hur
- 13 Paddle cousins
- 21 Skips town
- 23 St. Theresa's town
- 25 More whimsical
- 27 Foul-up
- 28 Hawkeye
- 29 Fountain for wishes
- 31 Model — Macpherson
- 32 Trailer rental (hyph.)

## 33 Dishwasher cycle

- 34 Put in the ledger
- 36 Journey parts
- 40 Huge crowd
- 41 Supply a banquet
- 44 Dodged
- 47 Lash darkener
- 49 City in Oregon
- 50 Facts, slangily
- 53 Roughly
- 54 Casts a vote
- 55 It may be knitted
- 56 Darth Vader's son
- 57 Elcar of "MacGyver"
- 59 Tints
- 60 Geologic divisions
- 61 Road crew's supply
- 64 Moppet



## Yesterday's answer



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# 3

## SPORTS



NFL

### Rent a Revis

Darrelle Revis signed a two-year deal with the Patriots less than a year ago. The Patriots have described the deal as a "placeholder," but according to ProFootballTalk, Revis has always thought of his contract with the Patriots as a one-year deal. It is unlikely that Revis will return to New England at a \$20 million price tag. In other Revis news, Seattle wide receiver Doug Baldwin said his indecent, toilet TD celebration in the Super Bowl was intended for Revis.



Visit **Metro.us** to see who the Jets nab in our latest NFL mock draft.

MLB



### A-Rod pens mea culpa

Alex Rodriguez showed off his penmanship Tuesday, crafting and releasing a handwritten letter in which he apologized to the Yankees and Yankees fans.

"I take full responsibility for the mistakes that led to my suspension for the 2014 season," Rodriguez wrote in a letter obtained by ESPN. "I regret that my actions made the situation worse than it needed to be. To Major League Baseball, the Yankees, the Steinbrenner family, the Players Association and you, the fans, I can only say that I'm sorry."

"I accept the fact that many of you will not believe my apology or anything that I say at this point. I understand why and that's on me. It was gracious of the Yankees to offer me the use of Yankee Stadium for this apology but I decided the next time I am in Yankee Stadium, I should be in pinstripes doing my job." **METRO**

NBA

### Amar'e lands with Mavs

Amar'e Stoudemire agreed to terms with Dallas on Tuesday, according to multiple reports. RealGM.com reported that Stoudemire's deal will be worth \$477,150. The Clippers and Suns were also said to be interested in Stoudemire's services. **METRO**



The asking price for Maple Leafs forward Phil Kessel is likely too high for a team like the Rangers. / GETTY IMAGES

# Raring to deal

**NHL.** The league's trade deadline isn't until March 2 but the frenzy is already underway.

Forget Valentine's Day if you want to see crazed, last-minute shopping.

The NHL trade deadline is where that's at.

The sprint to the final reconstruction of NHL rosters began in earnest last week with three trades involving 13 players and three draft picks. Buffalo kicked off the trade season by signing off on two deals, the biggest of which was the acquisition of Evander Kane, Zach Bogosian and prospect goaltender Jason Kasdorf from Winnipeg for Tyler Myers, Drew Staf-

ford, prospects Joel Armia and Brendan Lemieux, and a first-round pick in June's draft. The Sabres later added goalie Anders Lindback and a 2016 third-round pick from Dallas for Jhonas Enroth.

Those deals were the precursor to the four player and draft pick swap consummated by the Predators and Maple Leafs on Sunday.

Nashville acquired pending unrestricted free agents Cody Franson and Mike Santorelli in an attempt to round out the roster for the NHL Playoffs. Toronto landed the Predators' first-round pick in June's draft, prospect wing Brendan Leipsic and UFA-to-be Olli Jokinen.

Franson and Santorelli had been Predators draft picks. As far as Jokinen, there has been speculation

### Mullet on the move?

There's a chance the Devils' Jaromir Jagr could be on his seventh different NHL team in the coming days.

- Jagr told NJ Advance Media this week: "If something comes up, I'll be traded. What's the reason to keep me? I'm not important to this team."



JAROMIR JAGR  
GETTY IMAGES

that the Leafs will try to flip him prior to the deadline.

So what do these deals mean?

In a micro view, Nashville and Winnipeg are attempting to bolster their squads for the playoffs, while Buffalo and Toronto are in the midst of an organizational rebuild. In the macro view, though, the deals may cause the March 2 trade deadline to be underwhelming, especially when Marc Methot's four-year, \$19.6 million extension with Ottawa on Monday morning is factored in. In fact, the two most highly coveted players may be Carolina defenseman Andrej Sekera and Devils right wing Jaromir Jagr.

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10-Apr	Magnetic Schedule Night	AT&T	All Guests
25-Apr	Brett Gardner Replica Bat Day	Bank of America	1st 10,000 Guests 14 and younger
28-Apr	Rosario Toroka Bobblehead Night	AT&T	1st 18,000 Guests
9-May	Yankees Keychain Day	NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital	1st 18,000 Guests
23-May	Drawstring Backpack Day	Kumon	1st 18,000 Guests 14 and younger
25-May	Sunscreen Day	Blue Lizard	All Guests
9-Jun	Cap Night	Canon	1st 18,000 Guests
10-Jun	Promotional Item	Avis	1st 18,000 Guests 21 and older
17-Jun	Promotional Item	WFLA	1st 18,000 Guests
18-Jun	Thurman Munson Bobblehead Night	AT&T	1st 18,000 Guests
20-Jun	Old-Timers' Day	presented by Frost & Young	
23-Jun	Collectible Cap Night	Premio Foods	1st 25,000 Guests
24-Jun	Dunkin' Donuts Gift Card Night	Dunkin' Donuts	1st 18,000 Guests 21 and older
3-Jul	Cap Night	Budweiser	1st 18,000 Guests 21 and older
4-Jul	Promotional Item	SweetFrog	1st 18,000 Guests 14 and younger
8-Jul	Defiant Betances Figurine Night	P.C. Richard & Son	1st 18,000 Guests
18-Jul	Collectible Truck Day - 1/18th in a series	W.B. Mason	1st 18,000 Guests 14 and younger
4-Aug	Promotional Item	P.C. Richard & Son	1st 18,000 Guests 14 and younger
5-Aug	Promotional Item	Delta Air Lines	1st 18,000 Guests
6-Aug	Promotional Item	Living Language	1st 18,000 Guests
19-Aug	Coloring Book Day	Party City	1st 18,000 Guests 14 and younger
20-Aug	Promotional Item	The Parking Spot	1st 18,000 Guests
21-Aug	Yankees Water Bottle Night	Budweiser	1st 18,000 Guests 21 and older
24-Aug	Jacoby Ellsbury Bobblehead Night	AT&T	1st 18,000 Guests
26-Aug	Poster Day	Catch 24 Advertising	1st 18,000 Guests 14 and younger
8-Sep	Yankees Old School Pendant Night	Goldenberg's® Peanut Chews®	1st 18,000 Guests
9-Sep	Yankees Peanuts Bobblehead Night - 4th in a series	Wentz Jr.	1st 18,000 Guests
10-Sep	Babe Ruth Bobblehead Night	AT&T	1st 18,000 Guests
12-Sep	Promotional Item	WFLA	1st 18,000 Guests

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SPORTS

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# PRESSURE NOW ON

Make no mistake about it: These New York Knicks are now officially Phil Jackson's. And he is now officially on the clock as president of the Knicks and all the pressure that comes with it.

On the clock, we say, because he is finally going to get the chance to shape and mold this team into his vision, whatever that might be. With Monday's announcement that Amar'e Stoudemire is a Knick no more, the last major holdover of the old regime is gone. Jackson made the choice this summer to re-sign Carmelo Anthony, a player he inherited and decided to build around, but there are precious few remnants of the team he took over last spring still on this roster.

And with no more Stoudemire, a player who was an All-Star and an All-NBA selection here in New York now bought out, Jackson has the flexibility to build this Knicks team with little restraint. That means a boatload of cap space coming up. It also means a boatload of decisions. Decisions for a roster that will soon be his alone.

And in being his and only his, we can finally start to judge the job he's doing, and if things go sour, the job he may not be doing with the Knicks.

What this past Sunday's All-Star Game performance, where Anthony made just 6-of-20 shots, did

Opinion

## KRISTIAN DYER

@KRISTIANRDYER

Kristian Dyer is a columnist and the New York Jets beat writer for Metro.



was remind Knicks fans why he isn't a building block for the future. But now the "Zen Master" will have the opportunity this summer and next summer as well to start building a team that coincides with the vision that landed him multiple trophies in Chicago and Los Angeles. This is why he was brought to New York by the much-

maligned Jim Dolan; to make the tough choices. Only Jackson has the clout to pull this off.

He will pick up where others have failed here in New York, with a young head coach of his choosing and with a roster that pretty soon will begin to look like his and his alone. He made the decisions to bring Anthony back and to buy out Stoudemire. Now he will get the chance to fill out the rest of the roster sooner rather than later.

Many Knicks fans couldn't even tell you who their last team president was, but Jackson they know. There will be high expectations for a man who has won everywhere else he has been, though he better start winning here soon too or else these fickle fans will begin to lose patience.

All of which means that, as of Monday, the clock now starts ticking on Jackson's tenure with the Knicks. For the first half of the NBA season, he had a pass. The team wasn't really his and he had a rookie head coach walking the line. And with the Knicks in salary cap hell, not even the most optimistic of Knicks fans thought playoffs this year.

While few thought it would be this bad, this horrible start to the first 53 games of the year, it underscores just what a project Jackson inherited. Now, however, he will sink

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# CLEAN-SLATE PHIL



The ball is now completely in Phil Jackson's court when it comes to the direction of the Knicks.  
GETTY IMAGES

and swim by his decisions.

In hiring Jackson, Dolan perhaps decided to follow the same philosophy that has made his other team, the New York Rangers, a postseason team the last few years. In the Rangers, Dolan is hands-off and lets the hockey minds make the decisions on the ice. He doesn't meddle, he doesn't try to play puck God. Instead, he simply writes checks and cashes wins.

Jackson, perhaps the

most influential figure in the NBA for well over two decades now, has the rings and cigar victory poses to back up bold decisions like the one he made with Stoudemire on Monday. But it had better work, because he's taken some risks here.

He decided to tie this team to the wet blanket that is Anthony for another five seasons at near the maximum figure, and he decided to part ways with Stoudemire, who may be

washed up — but was still an influential figure on this roster. And it will be Jackson who decides how to use his cap space and draft picks over the next several years to begin to get the Knicks into playoff contention and back to being relevant again.

And it will be his team and his team alone that will either sink or swim. You're on the clock, Phil, and you better get moving. New Yorkers don't like to wait.

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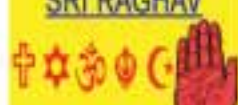
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